



Fiesta Sonrisa takes place this Sunday

Tomas Tromp, president of Sonrisa, a support group for the mentally challenged and their parents, presented an invitation to the public to join the members of Sonrisa for their annual fiesta, which will take place this Sunday, December 3. The fiesta is not only a great day of activities, but this year will also mark a day set aside as "International Day for the Mentally Challenged."

Joining Mr. Tromp in urging the public to attend, and so then assist the Sonrisa Foundation in their important work was Mrs. Annalise Schoop, treasurer of the foundation, and Angelique Perez, director of the center.

Sonrisa is a foundation that was started by the parents of mentally challenged children. Its purpose is two-fold, in that it not only supports the children with special learning materials, social events and after school care, but it is also a support group offering information to parents that have had a mentally challenged child, and are not informed or prepared for it. They have recently come out with a multi-lingual newsletter called "Claridad," which will be of great assistance to everyone in understanding how much the mentally challenged need to be kept active, accepted in to the community, and living as normal a lifestyle as possible.

Sunday's Fiesta Sonrisa will have games and activities for children, inexpensive holiday food for sale, including ayacas, a raffle for some great prizes, and a flea market. Additionally, Christmas decorations made by those that are cared for at Sonrisa will be offered for sale.

There will be some great entertainment throughout the day starting with a bus trip from 10:00 AM until noon at a cost of only five Arubian florins, (\$2.85) per person. From noon until the fiesta's finish at 8:00 PM there will be performances by musical groups Los Sobrinitos, Euphoria, Originales, Robert Thiel y Su Grupo and Pranda ta Nos.

At Tuesday's press conference to announce the coming fiesta, the board members also introduced the Sonrisa Donation Tree. Those that care to support Sonrisa can donate to the foundation by depositing to the Aruba Bank account #120639013, and their name will be placed on the tree as a leaf or an apple, depending on the size of the donation. All proceeds from the fiesta will also contribute to their good work, and anyone wishing to donate goods for them to sell at the flea market can deliver them to the center at Pavilla, where the fiesta will take place on Sunday.

"Sonrisa" means "smile" in Papiamento, and a trip to their fiesta on Sunday is certainly guaranteed to produce many smiles!